

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “In addition to” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (f), in addition to”; and

(2) by adding at the end of the following new subsection:

“(f) REDUCTION OF TAX RATE FOR EMPLOYERS PROVIDING PRIVATE DISABILITY INSURANCE PLANS TO EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For any wages paid by an employer in any calendar year after 2015 to an applicable individual in their employ, the tax imposed under subsection (a) shall be equal to—

“(A) for the first calendar year in which such individual is enrolled in a private disability insurance plan which satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3), 5.3 percent, and

“(B) for any subsequent calendar year in which such individual is enrolled in a private disability insurance plan, 5.95 percent.

“(2) PENALTY RATE FOR TERMINATION OF COVERAGE.—In the case of an employer who terminates coverage under a private disability insurance plan for an applicable individual within 5 years of the date on which enrollment in such plan began, for any wages paid by the employer to such individual (provided that such individual continues in their employ) in the calendar year beginning after the date of termination, the tax imposed under subsection (a) for during such calendar year shall be equal to 7.75 percent.

“(3) APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘applicable individual’ means an individual enrolled in a private disability insurance plan which satisfies the following requirements:

“(A) The plan shall be subject to regulation and oversight by the appropriate State insurance regulator.

“(B) The plan shall provide periodic payments to the enrolled individual which, on an annual basis, are equal to an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the annual wages paid to such individual during the preceding calendar year.

“(C) The plan shall provide payments to the enrolled individual for a period of 2 years.

“(D) The plan may not require the enrolled individual to file an application for disability insurance benefits under section 223 of the Social Security Act during the first 18 months in which such individual is provided payments under such plan.

“(E) The plan may not require the enrolled individual to contribute to the payment of any insurance premiums for such plan.

“(F) The plan may, as a condition of receiving payments under such plan, require the enrolled individual to receive any medical treatment or vocational rehabilitation which has been determined as likely to improve the ability of such individual to return to employment.

“(G) In the case of an individual who has applied for disability insurance benefits following the period described in subparagraph (D), the plan shall agree to provide the Commissioner of Social Security with any records relevant to the disability determination made under such plan for such individual.”.

(c) ASSISTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Secretary of the Department of Labor shall provide appropriate guidance and technical assistance to any State insurance regulator that requests such guidance and assistance for purposes of regulation and oversight of private disability insurance plans described in sections 1401(d)(2) and 3111(f)(2) of the Social Security Act, as added by this section.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 223(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “An applicable individual (as described in section 1401(d)(3) or section 3111(f)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986) may not file an application for disability benefits during the first 18 months in which such individual is provided payments under a private disability insurance plan which satisfies the requirements under section 1401(d)(3) or section 3111(f)(3) of such Code.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to remuneration paid in any calendar year after 2015.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Welfare and Poverty in America.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Treaties.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in America: Priorities, Challenges, and Opportunities.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 12:01 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, October 30, 2015, at 12:01 a.m.

## CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 29, 2015:

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EDWARD L. GILMORE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. THOMAS K. WARK

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. HOWARD P. PURCELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. ALLAN L. SWARTZMILLER

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. DAVID D. HALVERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KENNETH R. DAHL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 3064 AND 3084:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. ERIK H. TORRING III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS S. VANDAL

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. VALERIA GONZALEZ-KERR

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN J. MORRIS

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. MARKOVICH

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. MARTA CARCANA